

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GEORGE DOWNS HOUSE

and/or common Ivy Neck Tenant House #4

2. Location

street & number Cumberstone Road, south side _____ not for publication

city, town Cumberstone _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state MD _____ county A.A. _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Smithsonian Institution /Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) Tax Parcel #214 (330.07 acres)

street & number Contees Wharf Road telephone no.: 798-4424

city, town Edgewater state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber 1985

street & number folio 149

city, town _____ state _____

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. A4-62SD

Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-225D

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The George Downs House (Tenant Hse.#4) is the youngest of the surviving Ivy Neck Tenant Houses. Built about 1920*, it is much more commodious than the older tenant houses on the farm. One-and-a-half stories tall, it has about 900 square feet of living space including, on the first floor, two parlors, an entry stairhall, and^apantry, and two bedrooms and a hall on the second floor. Large windows and relatively high ceilings make for well-lighted rooms. The partitioned entry hall separates strangers at the front door from the private living space within, instead of having the door open directly upon that private space as happens in the other Ivy Neck tenant houses. The stairway is broad and straight instead of narrow and wrap-around. The first-floor doors are 6'5" tall, compared with 6'3" at Tenant Hse.#1 and 5'7½" at Tenant Hse.#3. There are even some decorative embellishments in Tenant House #4 such as horizontal-board wainscotting capped by a chair rail, and a built-in corner cupboard in one of the parlors. The house had a partial width front porch, now collapsed. It has two small stove chimneys, one in the west end of each parlor, a raised-seam tin roof, cedar shingle siding, 6-over-6 windows with 7½"x9½"panes, and hardwood floors.

According to oral testimony by Sam Neal Jr., Sam Neal Sr. with his wife and four youngest children occupied this house from 1930 until 1943. Sam Neal Jr. and his wife were living next door in Tenant Hse.#1 during the same period. Both men had begun tenant-farming at Ivy Neck in 1918, walking there daily from Owensville until 1930 when they moved their families to Ivy Neck.

Between 1943 and 1952, several other families moved in and out of Ivy Neck Tenant Hse.#4, including Al Sims for one year, and John Johnson in about 1950.

About 1952, George Downs and his sister Becky moved from Ivy Neck Tenant Hse.#2 into Tenant Hse.#4, and stayed there until 1966 when the Smithsonian acquired 330 acres of Ivy Neck farmland including this tenant house. The house has been vacant and deteriorating ever since.

* It is visible in a 1921 aerial photo.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-225D

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name South River, MD 1957; revised 1978

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Wetherill, Volunteerorganization Anne Arundel Co. Committee/MHTdate 11/87street & number P.O. Box 1573

telephone _____

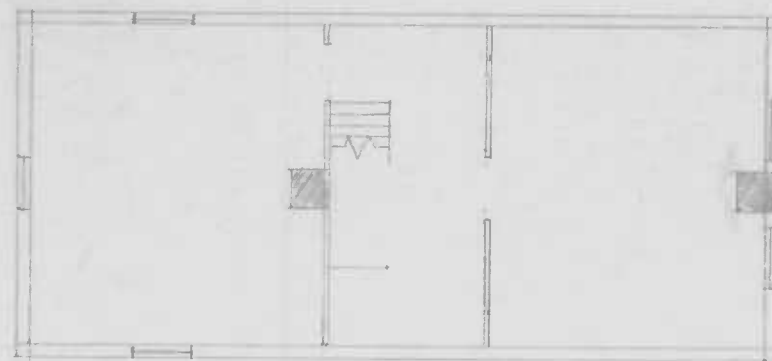
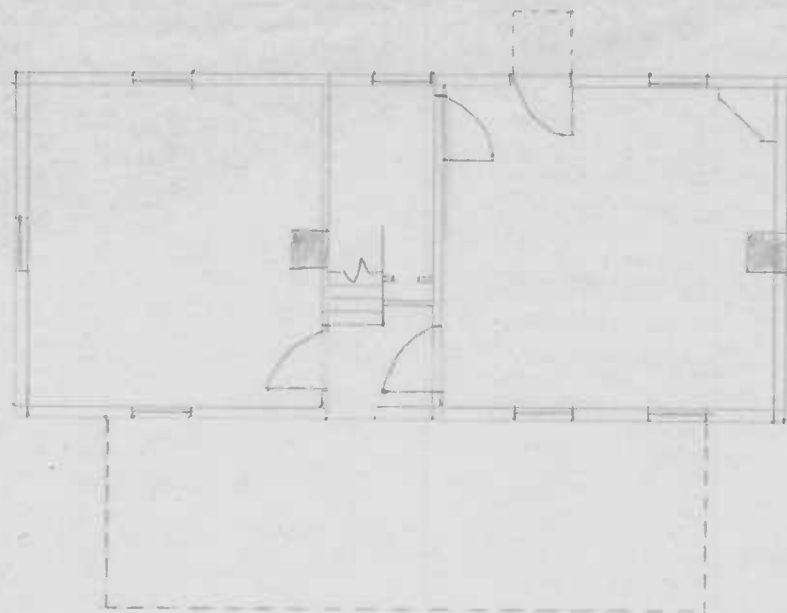
city or town Annapolisstate MD 21404

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

AA-225D



FEET
0 2 4 6

SCALE $\frac{1}{8}$ " = 1'0"

EXTERIOR WALL LENGTH TO SCALE
DIVISIONS AND DETAIL NOT TO SCALE

IVY NECK FARM
TENANT HOUSE # 4
WEST RIVER, MARYLAND

FEBRUARY 22, 1985



AA. 225D

George Downs House
(Ivy Neck Tenant Hse. #4)

A. A. Co., MD

S. Weatherill 2/85

facade, N. elev.



AA-225D

Ivy Neck #4 / George Downs Hse.

A. A. Co. MD

S. Wetherill 1/85

Facade, N. elev.



AA. 225 D

GEORGE DOWNS HOUSE

(Iny Neck Tenant Hse. #4)

A.A.Co. MD.

S. Wederick, 2/85

SE corner



AA. 225D

GEORGE DOWNS HOUSE

(Ivy Neck Tenant Hse. #4)

A.A. Co. MD

S. Wetherill, 1/85

NW Corner

1942-1943



AA-225 D

GEORGE DOWNS HOUSE

(Ivy Neck Tenant Hse. #4)

G. A. Co. MD.

S. Wetherill, 1/85

detail, south elev.